abatement works in 160 towns spread over 20 states and 34 rivers in the country. The plan involves implementation of pollution abatement works namely, interception & diversion of sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation, crematoria and river front development. So far, a total of 2598 million liters per day of sewage treatment facility has been created under these plans to improve the water quality. The Industrial pollution under the Plan is tackled by the Central Pollution Control Board and its state counterparts through the implementation of legal provisions under the Water (Prevention & Pollution Control) Act, 1974 and Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

Legal powers to Army to patrol the borders for wildlife trade

3096. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARATIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Board for Wildlife met under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister to take up the issue of legal powers to the army to patrol the borders to stop the wildlife trade, an ecological task force battalion for sanctuaries and State boards for wildlife;

(b) if so, what were the other subject discussed and main decision arrived; and

(c) what steps are being taken to implement the decision taken in the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) A meeting of the National Board for Wildlife was convened on 19th June, 2006 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister in which issue of conferring legal powers to the Field Commanders of the Armed Forces deployed in the border areas under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1982 to ensure protection of flora and fauna, raising ecological task force Battalion for Sanctuaries and representation of Armed Forces in State Board for Wildlife were taken up. The other important agenda items discussed include action for protecting peacocks, action for protecting lions, conservation of India's Red Jungle Fowl, conservation of important wetlands, etc. Central Government is fully committed to implement the decision taken at the National Board for wildlife.